



## EPA widens its dumping probe of cement firm

**By Darrell Glover**  
P-I Reporter

A federal agency is widening its investigation of a Seattle cement company the agency already suspected of dumping hazardous wastes into the Duwamish River.

Now the Environmental Protection Agency suspects the company of dumping polluted wastes into Lake Union as well.

EPA special agents have seized evidence at the Pioneer Construc-

tion Materials ready-mix concrete plant, 901 Fairview Ave. N., at the south end of the lake.

Early last month, EPA agents executed a search warrant and seized evidence at the cement company's plant on the Duwamish River at 5975 E. Marginal Way S. near the First Avenue South Bridge.

Pioneer has not been granted a permit by the EPA or the state Department of Ecology for disposal of hazardous wastes into Lake

Union, EPA agent Gerd R. Hattwig said in an affidavit filed in U.S. District Court.

No charges have been filed in either investigation.

Pioneer is a division of Riedel International Inc. of Portland, Ore.

Ronald Summers, Pioneer plant manager, said he had no comment on the affidavit last night and referred all calls to the firm's Portland office. A spokesman in Portland could not be

reached for comment.

Gerd said that he and other law enforcement officers observed waste liquid being discharged into Lake Union from the cement plant on numerous occasions after Sept. 11.

According to the affidavit, a sample that Hattwig took from a liquid discharge into the lake Sept. 15 had a high alkaline content.

The company plans to close the Lake Union plant next month, the affidavit said.